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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Masahito IMAMURA et al.	Group Art Unit: 3637
U.S. Application No.: 10/500,898	Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: April 11, 2005	Attorney Docket No.: 7398/84065
Confirmation No.: 8880	Customer No.: 42798

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08 are submitted for consideration by the Examiner in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

The full consideration of the references in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the references be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner place his or her initials in the appropriate area on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of each of the references.

The submission of the references listed on the Form PTO/SB/08 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that the references listed thereon are prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application. The right is expressly reserved to establish an invention date earlier than the above-identified filing date in order to remove any reference submitted herewith as prior art should it be deemed appropriate to do so.

Further, the submission of the references is not to be taken as a concession that any reference represents art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that any reference is not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

(X) **within** any one of the following time periods: (a) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); (b) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 of an international application; (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or (d) before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

() **after** (a), (b), (c) or (d) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and includes *one* of:

() the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below).

or

() the fee of $180 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).

() **after** the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below), and the fee of $180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).

() **after** the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and **within** thirty days of receiving each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)" below), and the fee of $180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).
NOTE: This is for original applications except applications for a design patent, filed on or after May 29, 2000, wherein a paper containing only an Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 is being filed.

Copies of the References

(X) Copies of the references listed on the enclosed Form SB/08 are enclosed herewith. Copies of any U.S. Patents and any U.S. Patent Application Publications are <u>not</u> enclosed.

(X) A copy of the Japanese Office Action dated May 10, 2006 issued in the related Japanese application, and the references cited therein, are enclosed herewith.

() A copy of the Supplementary European Search Report is enclosed herewith.

() The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08 were previously identified in the parent application(s) of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at that time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(d), the details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 USC 120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		Status *(check one)*		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1.				
2.				
3.				

Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)

(X) The **undersigned** hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

() The **undersigned** hereby states that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)

() The **undersigned** hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Fees

(X) **No fee** is owed by the applicant(s).
() The **IDS Fee of $180** under 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed herewith.

Method of Payment of Fees

() Attached is a check in the amount of $180.00.
() Charge Deposit Account No. 06-1135, under Order No. , in the amount of $0.00. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

(X) If any additional fees are owed in connection with this communication, please charge Deposit Account No. 06-1135. (A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.)

Instructions as to Overpayment

(X) Credit Account No. 06-1135.
() Refund

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

Date: **August 8, 2006**

Kendrew H. Colton
Registration No. 30,368

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO
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PTO/SB/08a
Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number	10/500,898
Filing Date	April 11, 2005
First Named Inventor	Masahito IMAMURA
Art Unit	3637
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket	7398/84065

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Document Number Number-Kind Code[2]	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document Country Code[3]-Number[4]-Kind Code[5]	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]
		JP S51-50701 A	05-04-1976	Teijin Limited		✔
		JP 11-334649 A	12-07-1999	Kasai Kogyo Co Ltd	Abstract	
		JP 10-121597 A	05-12-1998	Nissan Motor Co Ltd	Abstract	
		JP 10-207469 A	08-07-1998	Nissan Motor Co Ltd	Abstract	
		JP 2001-047926 A	02-20-2001	Hayashi Gijutsu Kenk	Abstract	
		JP 2001-224484 A	08-21-2001	Daiwa:KK	Abstract	
		JP 10-086729 A	04-07-1998	Sugihara Hosei Kogyo	Abstract	
		WO 98/18657	05-07-1998	Rieter Automotive	Abstract	
		JP 2000-516175 A	12-05-2000	Rieter Automotive		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

[1] Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). [2] See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. [3] Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [4] For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. [5] Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. [6] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.